



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **VERONA, MO., MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Verona, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for illegally possessing a firearm.

**Billy G. Hall**, 23, of Verona, Mo., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this morning to five years and three months in federal prison without parole for being an illegal user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

On Sept. 16, 2003, **Hall** pleaded guilty to illegally possessing a Savage Arms .22 caliber rifle and a Norinco SKS rifle on Jan. 10, 2003, in Lawrence County, Mo. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any unlawful user of a controlled substance to be in possession of any firearm. By pleading guilty, **Hall** admitted that he was an unlawful user of a controlled substance at the time he possessed the firearm.

**Hall** was originally charged with illegally possessing the firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 10, 2003, in Springfield.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas D. Gaston. It was investigated by the Lawrence County, Mo., Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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